

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 25-36 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended so as to include the limitations recited in dependent Claims 7 and 13. Claims 7 and 13 have been cancelled. Since dependent Claims 10, 17, 19, and 22 recite limitations similar to those recited in Claims 7 and 13, Claims 10, 17, 19, and 22 have also been cancelled. The dependency of dependent Claims 25-28 has been amended so as to conform to the cancellation of these claims. Claim 2 has been amended in the same manner as Claim 1. Specifically, Claim 2 has been amended so as to include the limitations recited in dependent Claims 8 and 14. Claims 8 and 14 have been cancelled. Since dependent Claims 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, and 24 recite limitations similar to those recited in Claims 8 and 14, Claims 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, and 24 have also been cancelled. The dependency of dependent Claims 25-28 has been amended so as to conform to the cancellation of these claims. Claims 29, 30, 33 and 34 have also been amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Claims 1-36 previously stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bendinelli, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,631,416; "Bendinelli"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner provides no assertions related to Claim 1. Applicant maintains that Claim 1 is distinguishable from Bendinelli at least because of the reasons explained in the responses to the first and second Office Actions. However, in order to further clarify the differences between Claim 1 and Bendinelli, Claim 1 has

been amended as explained below. Applicant asserts that the limitations described below are neither disclosed nor suggested in Bendinelli. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the meaning of "content data." In the first and second Office Actions as well as the Advisory Action, the Examiner does not mention the limitations recited in Claims 7, 10, 13, 17, 19, and 22. Claim 1 has also been amended based on the "other packets" shown in Tables 1 and 2 (see pages 18-19 of the specification) and its relevant explanation (see, for example, page 20, first paragraph, and page 20, last paragraph, to page 21, first paragraph, of the specification). Since these limitations are absent from the teachings of Bendinelli, Claim 1 defines patentable subject matter over this reference.

Applicant argues that Claim 2 is distinguishable from Bendinelli at least because of the reasons explained in the responses to the first and second Office Actions. However, in order to further clarify the differences between Claim 2 and Bendinelli, Claim 2 has been amended as explained below. Applicant maintains that the limitations described below are neither disclosed nor suggested in Bendinelli. Specifically, claim 2 has been amended to clarify the meaning of "content data". Claim 2 has also been amended based on the "other packets" shown in Tables 1 and 2 (see pages 18-19 of the specification) and its relevant explanation (see, for example, page 20, first paragraph, and page 20, last paragraph, to page 21, first paragraph, of the specification). Since these limitations are absent from the teachings of Bendinelli, Claim 2 defines patentable subject matter over this reference.

With regard to Claims 29, 30, 33 and 34, the Examiner provides an assertion as recited in lines 3-6 of the Advisory Action (i.e., Bendinelli disclosed "Alternatively, the

disk image may be... different communication devices such as router and switch.")). However, with respect to information stored in the disk image other than various program codes, Bendinelli merely mentions "the configuration of the IP stack" and "access control information for limiting the functions performed through one or more tunnels established between gateways 151-153" (col. 15, lines 30-36, of Bendinelli). In view of this fact, col. 27, lines 27-30, of Bendinelli, which are cited by the Examiner, neither disclose nor suggest information corresponding to the claimed switching information.

The present invention affixes the switching information to a packet in a transfer path order, and transmits the packet to which the switching information is affixed to a transfer destination router apparatus. The Examiner does not mention such a distinctive feature of the present invention. With such a feature, it is sufficient for the transfer destination router apparatus to perform its own switching operation using the first piece of the switching information affixed to the packet, move the second piece of the switching information to the top of the packet, and transmit the packet. Therefore, it is not necessary for the transfer destination router apparatus to search for an output label and switching tags based on an input label. Accordingly, it is possible to decrease the processing load.

Regarding Applicant's previous arguments related to these claims, the Examiner also provides an assertion as recited in lines 7-13 of the Advisory Action (i.e., "Bendinelli disclosed, with a TCP tunnel established,... among different gateways (e.g., routers and switch)"). Applicant notes that this assertion is based on the recitation in col. 28, sixth paragraph, of Bendinelli. However, such an assertion merely relates to redistribution

and addition of routing information. Similar to the Examiner's assertion cited in Item 1a, the Examiner's assertion cited in Item 2a is irrelevant to the distinctive feature of the present invention set forth in Item 1c. Col. 28, sixth paragraph, of Bendinelli, which is pointed out by the Examiner, also fails to disclose or suggest such a distinctive feature of the present invention.

In order to more clarify the association between the recitations of these claims with the arguments set forth in Item 1c, these claims have been amended based on, for example, page 36, lines 15-22, page 37, lines 7-11, page 40, lines 1-11, and page 40, line 21, to page 41, line 2, of the specification as well as FIG. 15. Therefore, Claims 29, 30, 33 and 34 are believed to be patentably distinct over this reference.

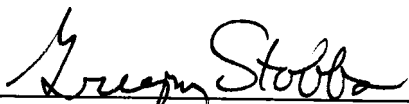
With regard to claim 32, the Examiner provides an assertion as recited in the last two lines of the Advisory Action (i.e., "one ordinary skill in the art knows that... internally with the router and switch"). However, such an assertion merely relates to routing and switching. The Examiner does not mention the technical idea of deleting switching information used by the core router apparatus itself from the switching information affixed to the received packet. Applicant asserts these claims are distinguishable from Bendinelli at least because of the reasons explained in the responses to the first and second Office Actions. However, in order to further clarify the differences between these claims and Bendinelli, these claims have been amended so as to correspond to the amendments of Claims 29 and 30 and edge router apparatuses recited in Claims 33 and 34. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, on page 38, lines 15-18, and page 41, lines 8-18, of the specification. For at least the reasons set forth above in relation to these claims, Claim 32 is also believed to be patentable over the

Bendinelli reference.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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